

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 7-31 were pending in the application. Claims 12 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 7, 13, and 23 have been amended.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7, 10-13, 15, and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Herold (U.S. Patent No. 5,832,067, hereinafter, "Herold"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claim 7 as amended sets forth a **speech synthesizer device** for audibly broadcasting text portions of the pre-selected information over the speaker. In contrast, Herold fails to disclose a speech synthesizer device. According to Herold, the apparatus disclosed merely includes an audio amplifier 28 and a speaker 234 (Herold, col. 6, ln. 10-17). However, the Examiner argued in the final Office Action that: "Herold discloses an audio synthesizer (268) capable of reproducing audio messages to the user [col. 6 lines 12-17], thereby audibly broadcasting information over the speaker, substantially as claimed." Applicant respectfully submits that the reference numeral 268 in Herold refers to an audio amplifier (Herold, col. 6, ln. 13; Figure 5). The audio synthesizer as claimed is distinct and separate from the audio amplifier 268 in Herold. An audio amplifier is for amplifying audio signals, i.e., increasing the volume of the audio signals. Herold does not suggest or imply that the audio amplifier 268 can audibly broadcast text portions of pre-selected information. In contrast, the audio synthesizer as claimed is for audibly broadcasting *text portions* of the pre-selected information over a speaker. Furthermore, it is well known that an audio amplifier

generally does not audibly broadcast text portions of pre-selected information. Since Herold lacks at least the above limitation in claim 7 as amended and it is not obvious to modify Herold with the above limitation, claim 7 as amended is not obvious over Herold. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

For at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 7, claim 13 is not obvious over Herold. Furthermore, claims 10-13, 15, and 18-21 depend from claims 7 and 13, respectively, and thus, are not obvious over Herold for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 7. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 8-9, 16-17, and 23-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Herold in view of Hidary et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,664, hereinafter, "Hidary"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 7. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) have been overcome by the remarks and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested. Applicant submits that claims 7-11, 13-21, and 23-31 are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

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No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

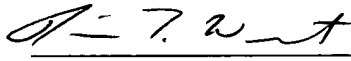
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